

## CALVARY CONTENDER ARTICLES

May 16, 1999 (Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org) - The following information is from recent issues of the Calvary Contender. Jerry Huffman is the editor of this bi-weekly paper. The full issues are available on the web at <http://www.whoisit.com/contender> --

**BBF GIVES GRAHAM BOOK TO PREACHERS** - Dr. Arthur Houk writes: "As preachers registered for the national Baptist Bible Fellowship, Int'l meeting, Feb. 15-17, at the Midway Baptist Church in San Diego, Jim Baize host pastor, they received as gifts the book *Living Beyond The Limits* by Franklin Graham, and the booklet *Kids Praying For Kids* by Franklin Graham...To me the choice of books shows the deep inroads of the new evangelical mind-set in some of the BBFI churches...." In this book, Graham pledged to his father that as his successor as chairman and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association he would not take it to the left or the right, but [presumably] will continue it on an ecumenical evangelism course. He referred to RC nun "Mother" Teresa as an "example of the woman God uses." He highly praised close friend and "Christian" rock guitarist Dennis Agajanian, and has spoken for Promise Keepers rallies. (Calvary Contender, April 1, 1999)

**FALWELL'S BBF ADDRESS** - Dr. Arthur Houk sent us a tape of Dr. Jerry Falwell's Feb. 15 message at the annual Baptist Bible Fellowship meeting, San Diego. We can now edit and expand our "paraphrased" 3/1 CC article. Dr. Bruce Melton introduced Falwell as "the BBF missionary to the Southern Baptist Convention." Falwell chronicled his BBF roots, and said (to applause): "I'm a BBF pastor, have been, and will be, whether you like it or not." He defended his "Mars Hill" ministry (with Geraldo, Larry King, etc.) and joked about his "friend" Larry Flynt, "just a lonely, hurting soul." [One might infer that he was saying Flynt wasn't evil, though he didn't directly say that.] Falwell said he often speaks in synagogues, Roman Catholic churches, and just about wherever they will let him. He said, "I love Bob Jones University...but their [traditional] music is terrible." You're not gonna reach the youth of today - and I'm not talking about noise - but I'm talking about praise and worship. And you'd better decide to change or the world's gonna leave you behind in the dust and forget your name....Teenagers can change, as Noel Smith used to say, a multitude of theology." He said liberalism is bankrupt, "dead and gone," tradition is gone, formalism is gone. "The problem today is dead orthodoxy." He said there's a place for dc Talk (a CCM/rock band of Liberty U. grads that started there). Billy Graham uses them in his crusades. "These kids have got something going out there, so hold your nose and let 'em do it!" He mentioned going on a 40-day fast (a year and a half ago) when "heavy money" was needed, then 25 days later, a fast of 105 days, 80 without any food. [See Matt. 6:18 regarding fasting.] He explained/downplayed his SBC links, but will speak at its annual meeting in June. He said, "I am a BBF pastor. I also fellowship with the Southwide Baptist Fellowship and ... Bible-preaching Southern Baptists." (Calvary Contender, March 15, 1999)

**STOWELL, LITFIN, WAYBRIGHT MEET WITH RC CARDINAL** - MBI President Dr. Joseph Stowell joined Wheaton Pres. Dr. Duane Litfin and Trinity Internat'l University Pres. Dr. Gregory Waybright as dinner guests in the home of Cardinal Francis George, Dec. 16 (2/2 Moody Student). A "relationship" was established and a "partnership" discussed. Stowell said the four "agree on social issues," but said cooperation could not compromise "theological understandings." George "wanted to talk theology" and discussed the possibility of "entering into the next millennium with a call to our congregations to pray and worship with services that might contain some common elements." Litfin said he didn't know what the relationship with the cardinal might lead to, but "it's better to have such a relationship than not to have one." The [new] evangelicals quickly recognized that the focus of their differences with George was "justification by grace through faith alone." "Social issues" seems to be the devil's enticing bait in our day, to hook new evangelicals into ecumenical relationships with false-gospel adherents who lure them to the one-world church of Antichrist. [Note: Ecumenicals Bill Hybels, Luis Palau, and Franklin Graham were recent Moody speakers - see 1/15 CC.] (Calvary Contender, March 15, 1999)

**VULGAR TV, MOVIES CORRUPT OUR CULTURE** - Gene Edward Veith writes: "Professional wrestling, staged with obscene gestures and in-your-face vulgarity, is the most popular programming on cable TV." And: "Rap

has now become the most popular musical style among young people today." (3/13 World) Hollywood seems to put sex, nudity, and vulgarity/profanity into its movies every chance it gets. Naked bodies and exploding cars clutter most current movies. From 1988 to 1997, Hollywood produced 17 times more R-rated films than G-rated, but G-rated produced eight times more gross earnings (4/5 CT). An agenda, and Oscar gold, is the goal. No outside threat to our nation is greater than the danger of corrupting of our culture from within. (Calvary Contender, April 15, 1999)

FOR NAE TO SURVIVE, NEW LEADER WANTS TO ENLARGE BORDERS - REPLACE WALLS WITH PICKET FENCES - Only 350 attended the National Association of Evangelicals' recent annual meeting. Its new leader, Free Methodist Bishop Kevin Mannoia, thinks it is time to enlarge the borders and include those with compatible views who are outside the traditional realm of evangelicalism. The Worldwide Church of God became an NAE member in 1997. Mannoia says the NAE should not be fearful of charismatic movements such as the Vineyard [John Wimber group]. He noted that many evangelical United Methodists [an oxymoron?] would feel at home in the NAE (4/5 CT). He said, "We don't need to be looking for litmus tests. We should be replacing block walls with picket fences." GARBC leader Richard Christen in 1995 said: "Instead of a two-foot thick wall around our GARBC, let's build a sturdy picket fence around us." Nehemiah built a wall, and walls of separation (not flimsy picket fences) are vital in our day. But NAE board chairman Lamar Vest said the NAE has an unprecedented challenge to make Christianity relevant. (Calvary Contender, April 15, 1999)

FRANKLIN GRAHAM'S ECUMENICAL FESTIVALS - In succeeding his father Billy Graham, Franklin has, to keep up with the times, reconfigured some of the outer trappings of the crusades. George Beverly Shea has "deferred to the grittier, rowdier (and hunkier) Michael W. Smith," says the 4/5 Christianity Today. The shorter attention span of today's audience forces the younger Graham to keep his message to 15 minutes. Video clips keep the audience entertained between speakers. CT reports: "Franklin no longer calls them crusades - 'that's a church word.' They are festivals - 'that's a secular word.'" For baby boomers, this evokes images of Woodstock. This is called being "seeker sensitive," but might also be called "pragmatism," "watering down," "men-pleasing," "compromise," or catering to the world. (Calvary Contender, April 15, 1999)

ANOTHER CHURCH EXITS GARBC - We received a note last month from Pastor Randall Chovan stating the following: "Our church, First Baptist of Pasco, WA, voted with a 90% majority to disassociate with the GARBC [General Assoc. of Regular Bapt. Churches] on Feb. 24, 1999. We exited because of the increasing compromise in the areas of faith and practice within the association." (Calvary Contender, April 1, 1999)

ABC APOSTASY EXPOSED - The American Baptist Churches, USA (formerly Northern Baptist Convention) is a member of the liberal National and World Council of Churches. Pastor Mark Franklin has prepared a 4-page paper listing concerns in the areas of inerrancy, modern feminism (God as "Mother," women pastors, etc.), homosexuality, abortion, etc. Request a free copy of this paper from Pastor Franklin at 284 Whig Lane Road, Monroeville, NJ 08343. He pastors Hardingville Bible Church, and is an ACCC executive committee member. (Calvary Contender, April 1, 1999)

CARDINAL ARINZE: ONE CAN GET TO HEAVEN WITHOUT JESUS - A possible successor to Pope John Paul II, Cardinal Francis Arinze, at the Thanksgiving World Assembly (Dallas) in March said a person can get to heaven without accepting Jesus. He said a document from the Second Vatican Council says that "God's grant of salvation includes not only Christians, but Jews, Muslims, Hindus and people of good will." (3/20 Dallas Morn. News). Many Roman Catholics agree with the Pope that Christianity is not the only saving faith and that a sincere Jew, Muslim and other non-Christian can get to heaven without saving faith in Jesus Christ (4/5 Chr. News). United Religions promoter and Episcopal Bishop William Swing also participated in the Dallas assembly. (Calvary Contender, May 1, 1999)

METHODISTS TO WORSHIP 'GOD THE MOTHER' - The Methodist Church broke with centuries of Christian tradition in February and included the first prayer to "God the Mother" in its 600-page Methodist Worship Book for the Millennium (3/1 Christian News). It is the first time in Britain that a mainstream church has

referred to God as a woman in an official service book, although feminists and liberals have pressed for it for decades. (Calvary Contender, April 1, 1999)

**PUBLIC WANTS 'R' MOVIES** - A Spartanburg, S.C. theater owner who had banned R-rated movies for moral reasons, is bringing them back - for financial reasons. Attendance had dropped by 40 percent. He excused the "give them what they want" ban reversal by saying "I don't want to sit here and go broke." Understood, but if he has "moral" convictions, he is in the wrong business. (Calvary Contender, March 15, 1999)

**LOTZ TO SPEAK AT BWA MEETING IN AUSTRALIA** - The 18th Baptist World Congress is set for Melbourne, Australia, Jan. 5-9, 2000. Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of Billy Graham, is to be a featured speaker. There are now 192 Baptist conventions (including SBC) and unions which are members of the apostate BWA (Baptist World Alliance), with a total community of 110 million. Desmond Tutu was the highlight at a recent BWA meeting (9/1 CC). (Calvary Contender, February 15, 1999)

**WCC & CATHOLICISM** - Dr. Ralph Colas, Exec. Sec'y of the American Council of Christian Churches, attended (with press credentials) the Eighth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Harare, Zimbabwe in Dec., and reports thusly: At the first press conference a reporter asked WCC Gen. Sec'y Dr. Konrad Raiser about the relationship between the WCC and the Roman Catholic Church. He related that there was a joint working group regarding cooperation between the WCC and the RCC. A booklet, Joint Working Group Between the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches, was given to all in attendance. It rehearsed the past seven years' work and emphasized the "growing relationship of the WCC and the RCC." The RCC is already a full member of 56 national councils of churches throughout the world. Among special guests at this 8th Assembly were many RC priests and nuns. One, the Rev. Thomas Stransky, took journalists on a brief historical tour of Roman Catholic relations with the WCC. He said in 1972 the Vatican decided not to "seek membership of the WCC in the immediate future." But Stransky said, "I do not rule out that the Roman Catholic Church may in the future be in full membership with the WCC." A formal letter from Pope John Paul II, was sent to Dr. Konrad Raiser in which he "extended best wishes and congratulations to Assembly delegates. The WCC has been a valuable instrument at the service of the ecumenical movement, contributing... to the promotion of unity among Christians, in response to the Lord's prayer 'that they may all be one'." The Pope added, "With regard to the relationship between the WCC and the RCC, it is our hope that ways of future collaboration within the framework of the Joint Working Group can be found in order to intensify the search for Christian unity, also in its visible dimension." The pontiff referred to an Encyclical Letter which stated, "This unity which the Lord has bestowed on his Church and in which he wishes to embrace all people... stands at the very heart of Christ's mission." It continued, "Such commitment is part of the Christian vocation, since every Christian by virtue of Baptism is called to promote the unity of all Christians modeled on the life of the Holy trinity." [Send offering for Dr. Colas' in-depth report to: ACCC, P.O. Box 5455, Bethlehem, PA 18015.] (Calvary Contender, February 1, 1999)

**ETS MET IN FLORIDA** - The Evangelical Theological Society met in Orlando, Nov. 19-21, for its 50th Annual Meeting. Speakers included J.I. Packer, Norman Geisler, "Father" Francis Martin (Catholic), Roger Nicole, D.A. Carson, Harold O.J. Brown, Robert Godfrey, John Piper, Luther Whitlock, John Warwick Montgomery, James Beverley, and Frank Beckwith (12/21 Christian News). The ecumenical ECT (Evangelicals & Catholics Together) and The Gift of Salvation (see 1/1/98 CC) statements were discussed. Packer and Martin were co-authors of the latter, and Packer is said to identify entirely with the ECT process. ETS said "no" to homosexual practice and also to slander of evangelicals for taking a stand on the issue. This seems in contrast to 1988 and 1992 ETS meetings which featured pro-homosexuality lectures by Latin American Mission author Thomas Hanks (see 1/1/96 CC). Papers were presented on Mormonism and Moonism. [The Adventist Theol. Society apparently met concurrently with the 1995 ETS meeting.] Carson observed that some Bible colleges like Moody are expanding to include a seminary program and mega-churches like Jack Hayford's are starting their own seminaries. ETS has grown to 2,500 members with 1,296 attending this meeting. (Calvary Contender, January 15, 1999)